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A VITAL BOOK

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3

THE SPIRIT

IN
MURDER RUNS WILD!

6

COMPLETE STORIES
STARRING

The **SPIRIT**

AMERICA'S
GREATEST
CRIMEBUSTER!





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THE Spirit



by
Will Eisner

ABOVE RESTRICTING CONVENTIONS, BEYOND THE CONFUSION OF RED TAPE, RULES **THE SPIRIT** AS HE SMASHES CRIME BEYOND THE REACH OF THE LAW!

WE FOUND GUNNER MCGUIRE'S BODY IN A CEMENT BLOCK AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER YESTERDAY ... THAT'S NUMBER THREE FOR THE MONTH!

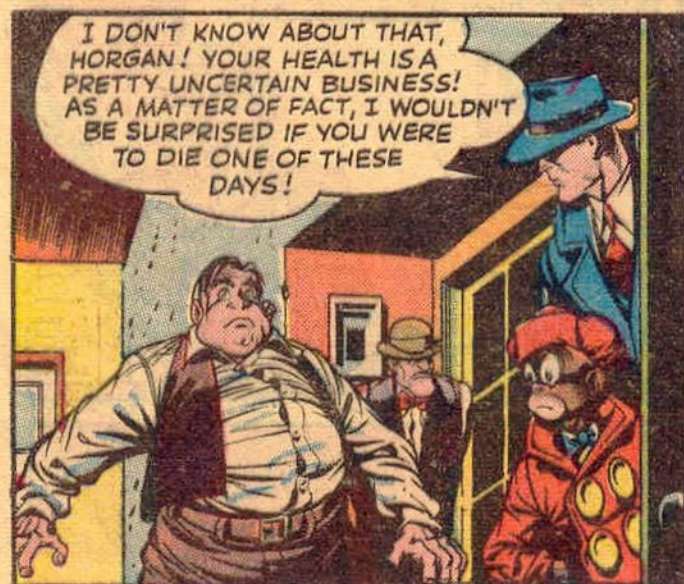
LOOKS LIKE THE ANDY HORGAN TOUCH!

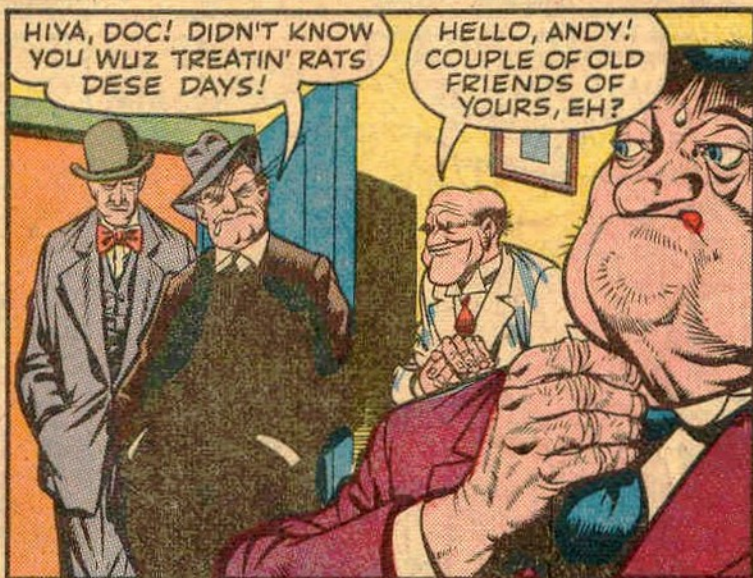
YOU'RE TELLING ME! BUT WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO PIN ANYTHING ON THAT MOBSTER YET AND I'M AFRAID WE NEVER WILL!

AH'D SHO' LAK TO HAVE A CRACK AT DAT MAN!

HEY, EBONY! YOU MUST BE EATING LOTS OF VITAMINS!

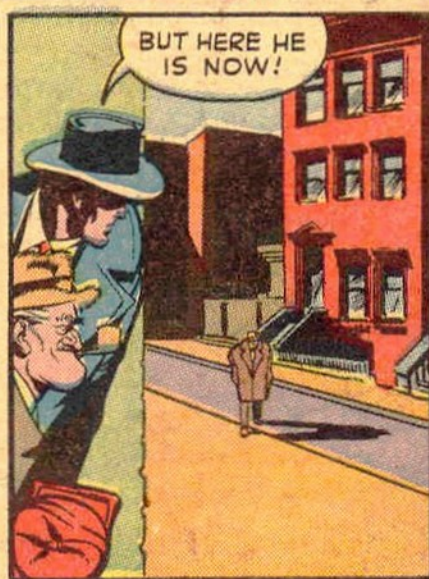


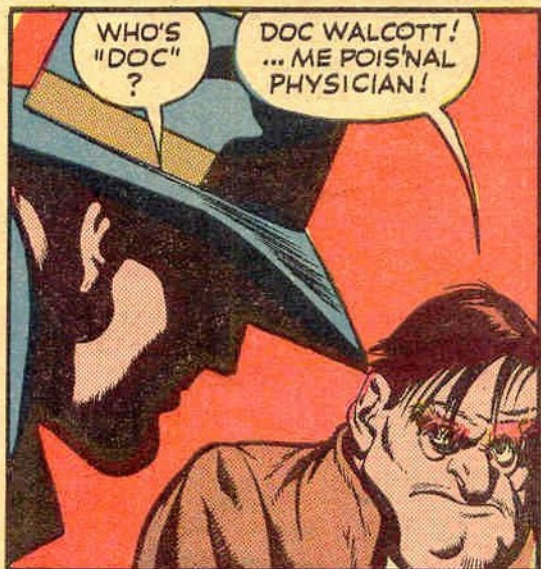












JUSTICE MOVES
SWIFTLY... AND
SOON...

HAW-HAW! TELL YOU
WHAT, DOLAN ... I'LL
GIVE YOU FIVE TO ONE
I DON'T GO TO THE
CHAIR TONIGHT! MY
THIRTY DAYS IS UP
TODAY!

WHAT
THIRTY
DAYS?

ALL RIGHT, HORGAN... I'M THE
PRISON DOCTOR! THIS
IS THE FINAL CHECK-UP
BEFORE YOU GO TO
THE CHAIR!

WELL... HOW ABOUT
DAT BET,
DOLAN?

YOU'RE AS SOUND
AS A DOLLAR! ...
HEALTHIEST CONDEMNED
MAN I'VE EVER
EXAMINED!

WHAT?? YOU'RE
NUTS! ... DOC
WALCOTT TOLD ME
I HAD ONLY THIRTY
DAYS TO LIVE... AND
...AND WHAT ABOUT
DEM PAINS IN ME
CHEST?

PROBABLY INDIGESTION
FROM EATING AND
DRINKING TOO MUCH!
IF YOU WEREN'T A
KILLER, YOU COULD
HAVE LIVED TO BE
A HUNDRED!

SUDDENLY...!

HUH?... WHA---
AGGHHHHH

HE'S
DYING!

HEART FAILURE! BUT I
ASSURE YOU IT MIGHT
HAVE HAPPENED TO ANY
MAN WHO'D HEARD WHAT
I JUST NOW TOLD HORGAN!
THE SHOCK WAS TOO MUCH,
EVEN FOR A HEART AS
STRONG AS HIS!

I SEE IT NOW! WALCOTT
STEERED HIM AFTER GREGG
AND BRONSON! ...TOLD HIM
HE WAS GOING TO DIE!
THAT'S WHY HORGAN
DIDN'T CARE IF HE
WAS CAUGHT!

IN ANOTHER PART OF THE PRISON...

THAT WAS A BRAINSTORM...
PULLING WALCOTT IN ON
SUSPICION, SPIRIT! HE'LL
SURELY BE CONVICTED
OF COMPLICITY!

AND THAT
PRACTICALLY
CLOSES THIS
CASE!

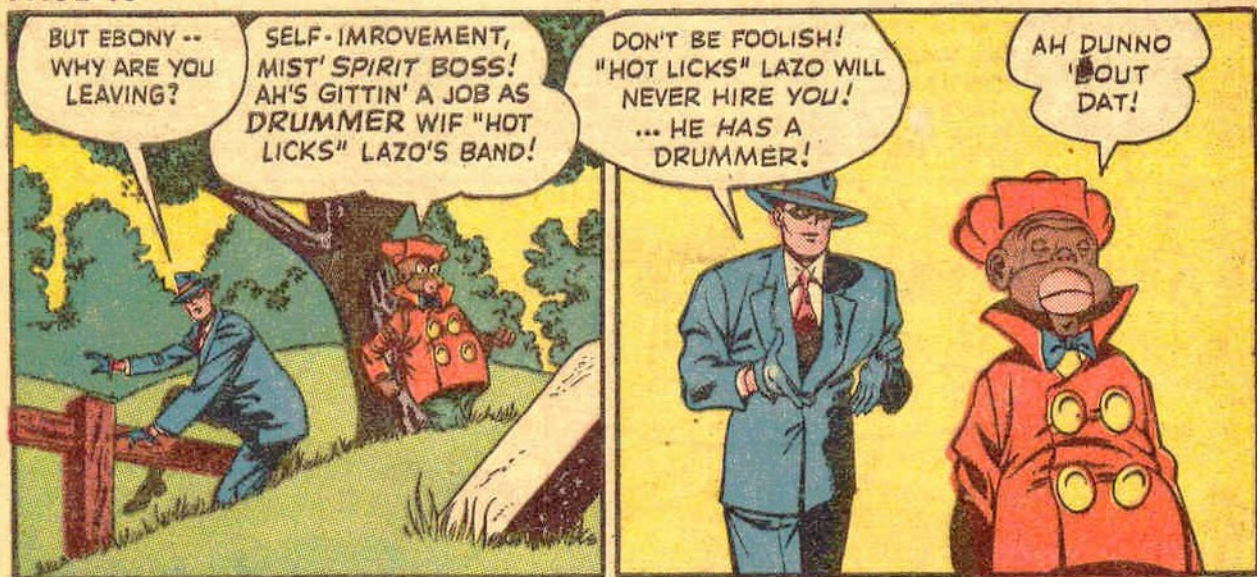
the SPIRIT

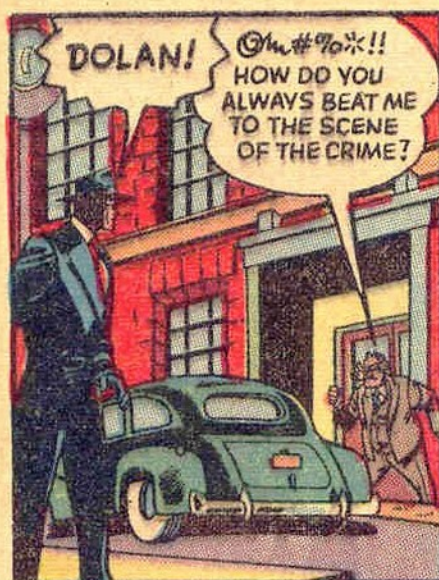
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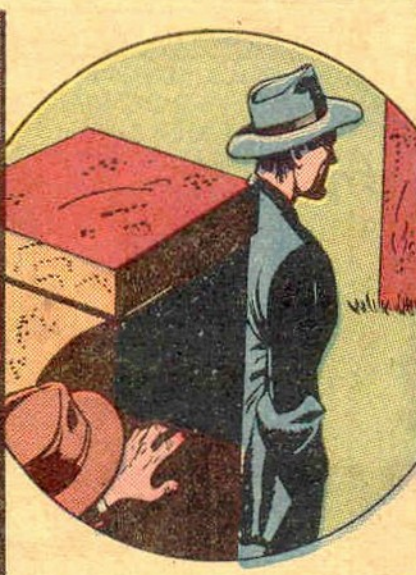
EAT ME, DADDY, EIGHT TO THE BAR " is music to Ebony's ears!...

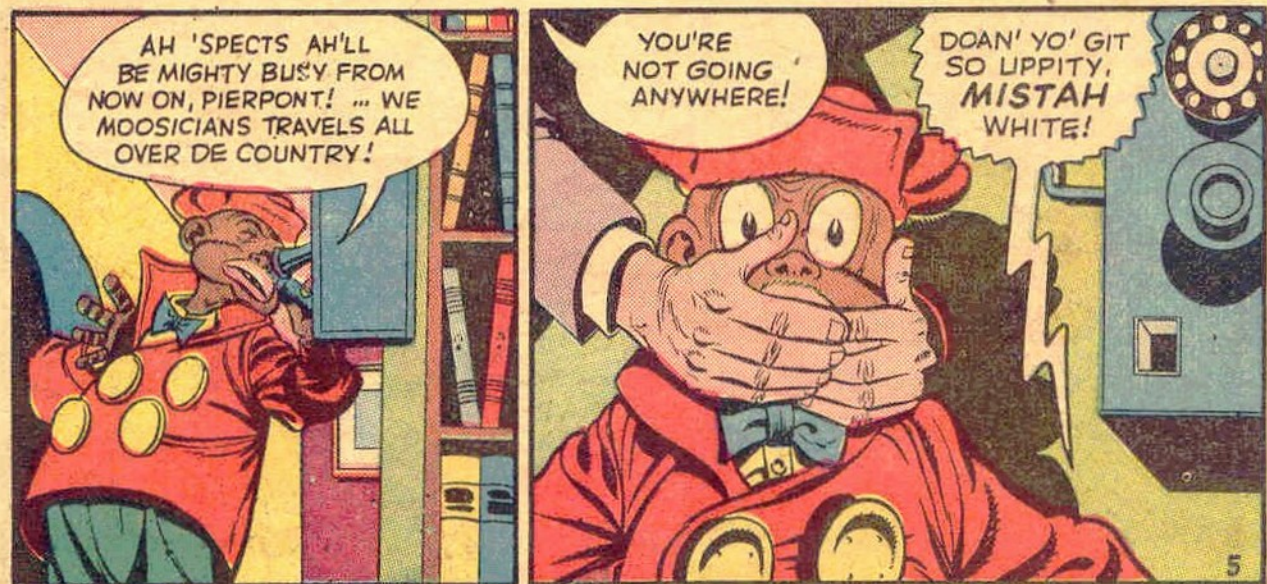
But with The SPIRIT leading the band, it's "PRISON BARS" that even the "score" with the "Maestro"!

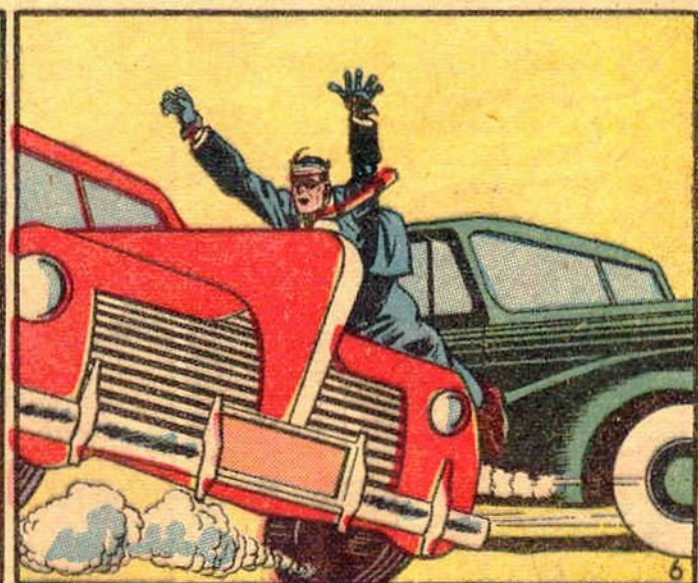
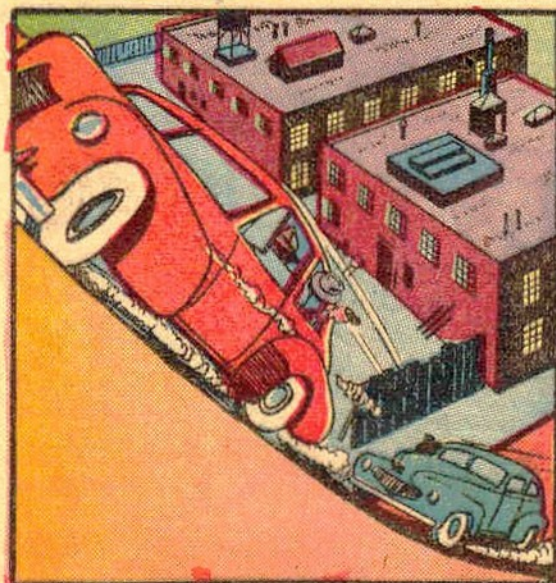
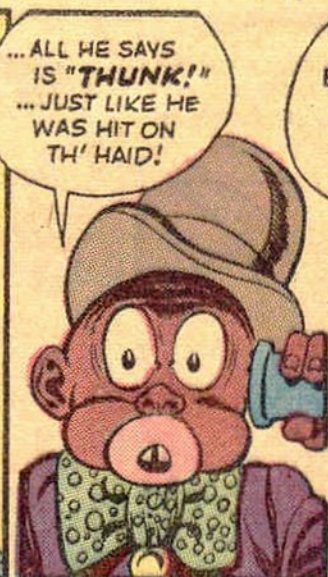


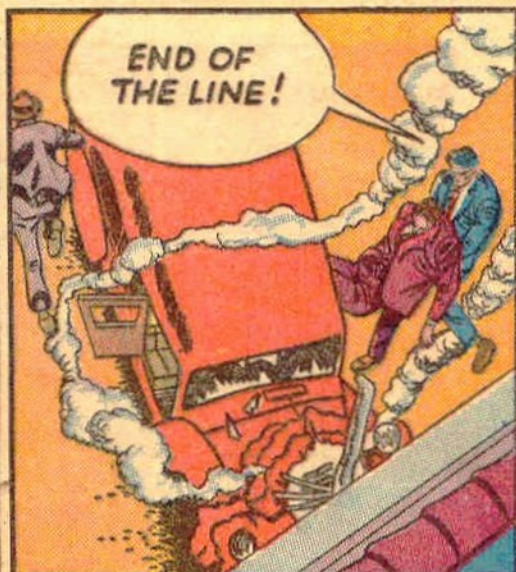
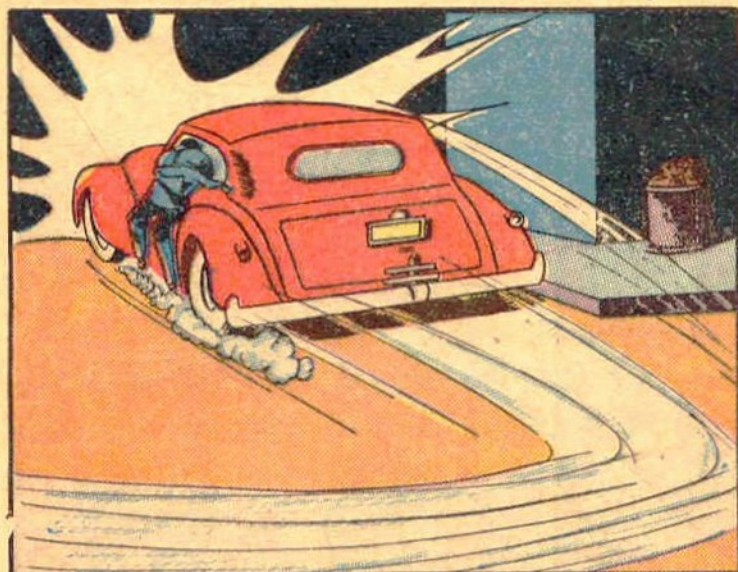












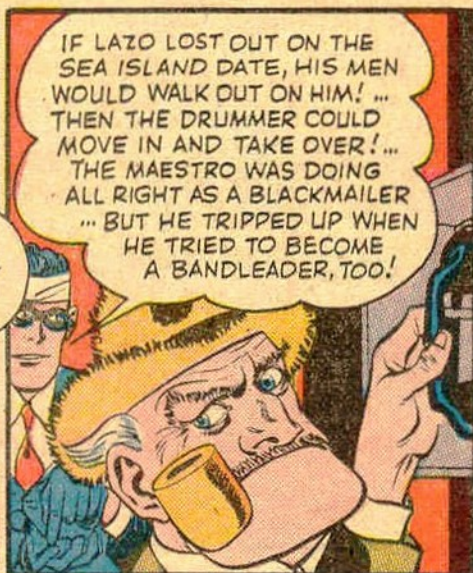


THIS IS THE MAESTRO! ... HE'S THE MISSING DRUMMER FROM "HOT LICKS" LAZO'S BAND!



THE MAESTRO HAD TO BE SOMEBODY IN LAZO'S BAND! THE FACT THAT HE DEMANDED MONEY FROM EVERYBODY ELSE WHILE HE ONLY TRIED TO STOP LAZO FROM PLAYING AT SEA ISLAND CASINO PROVED THAT!

I STILL DON'T GET IT!



IF LAZO LOST OUT ON THE SEA ISLAND DATE, HIS MEN WOULD WALK OUT ON HIM! ... THEN THE DRUMMER COULD MOVE IN AND TAKE OVER! ... THE MAESTRO WAS DOING ALL RIGHT AS A BLACKMAILER ... BUT HE TRIPPED UP WHEN HE TRIED TO BECOME A BANDELEADER, TOO!



AH NEBER DID GET A CHANCE TO BEAT DE DRUMS! ... MAH CAREER WAS BLIGHTED IN DE BUD!

I HAVE JUST THE JOB FOR YOU, EBONY!



I'LL LET YOU BEAT THOSE, TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT!

AH'S DISAPPRECIATED! ... DAT'S WHUT AH IS!!







CUTHBERT, MY DEAR FELLOW! ... COME IN AND MEET SOME **VERY CLOSE FRIENDS!**



CHERMED!



ER-- MR. VAN GIMMICK, MAY I PRESENT **THE SPIRIT?**



NOSSIR! ... I NEVER SEEN YA IN MY LIFE!



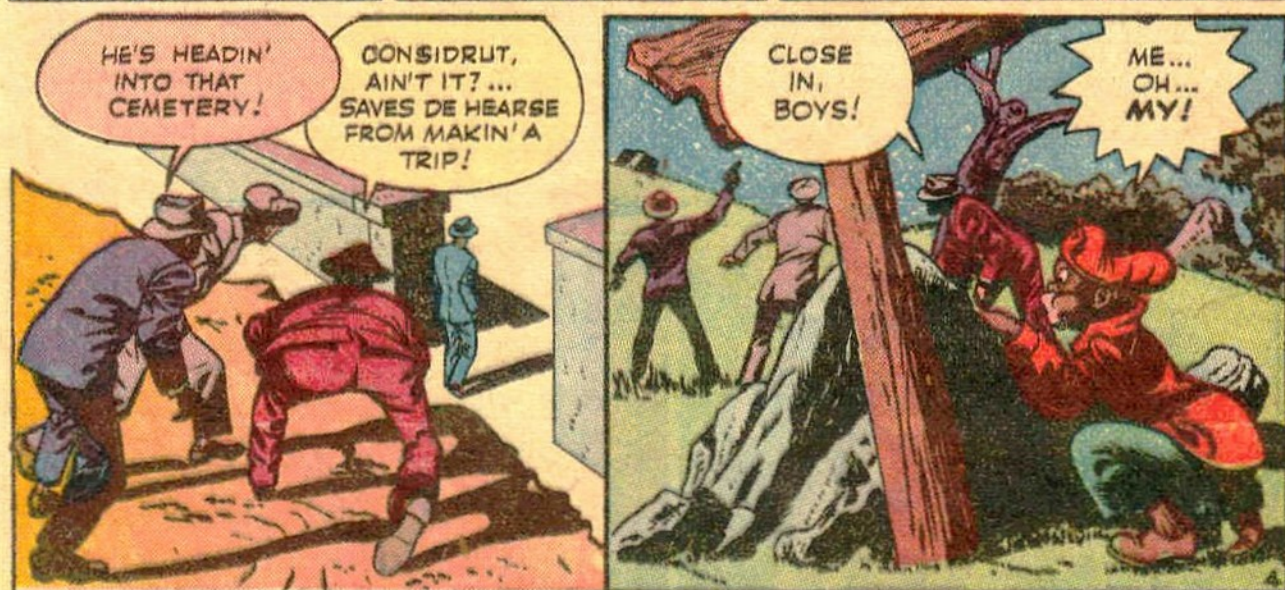
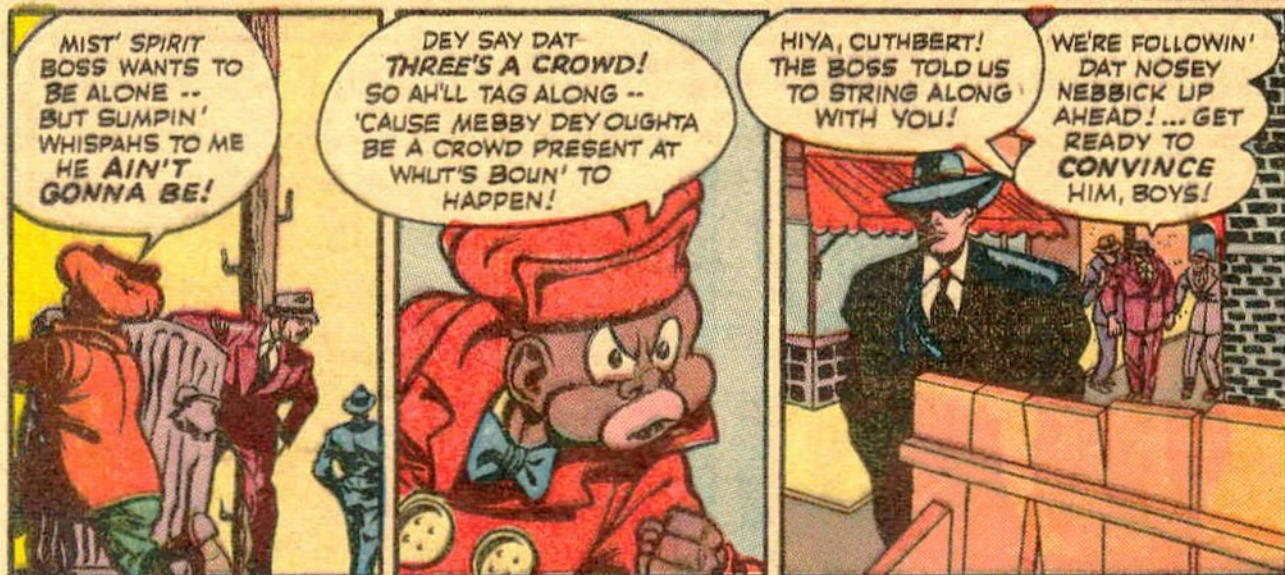
IMPOSSIBLE! I NEVER HAD MY PICKSHER TAKEN! --I FIGGER IT FER **BAD LUCK!**

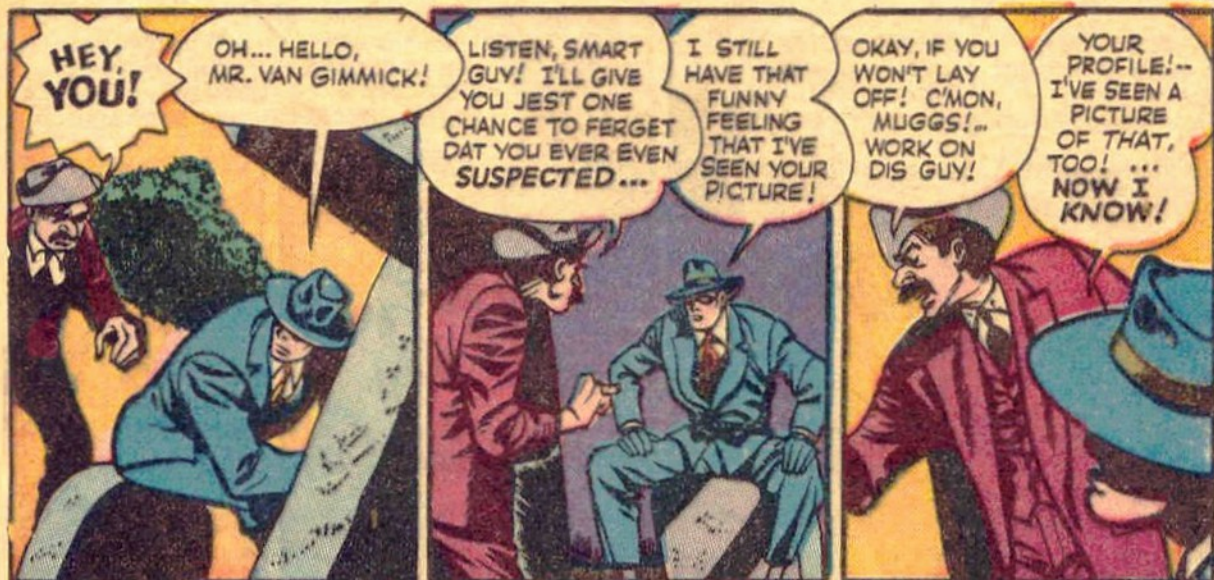


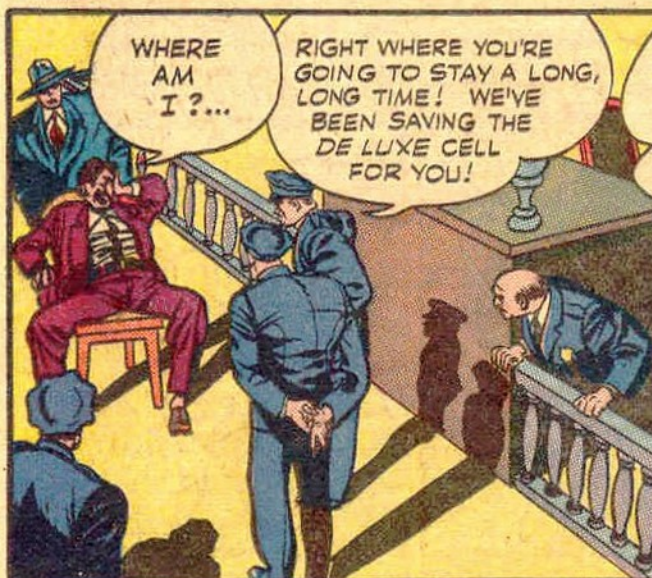
OH-- I'M SORRY, BUT-- YOU SEE -- DADDY HAS INVITED DERWOOD TO STAY FOR DINNER!



YES, I UNDERSTAND... GOOD EVENING, ELLEN!











The SPIRIT

CLASS OF '35...

WILLIAM BRANDE,
CLASS POET...
HIS VERSE MAY BE
ASININE, BUT WE ALL
LOVE HIS SISTER...
OH, SO DIVINE!

ROGER RANDOLPH,
CLASS ATHLETE...
IF BRAINS HAD BICEPS,
"RAJ" WOULD BE
MUSCLE-BOUND...
ASK "STEADY ED"!

EDWARD R. STEAD,
CLASS SCHOLAR...
"STEADY ED" -- OUR
BET FOR MOST LIKELY
TO SUCCEED!

DENNY COLT,
CLASS WISEMAN...
BELOVED BY ALL, DENNY'S
OUR CLASS STANDOUT! IF
YOU'RE IN A JAM, HE'LL
HELP YOU OUT! HATS
OFF TO YOU, DENNY!

La
Reports
Algie
Africa
Mundlet
wealy
wavy
Sishke
wavy
overhead
coste
intimation
sullitury
cu
now
1200
out
w
Hille

Only Commissioner Dolan knows
that THE SPIRIT is really
Denny Colt, long believed dead...

by
Will Eisner

MY COLLEGE CLASS REUNION!
STRANGE HOW FAMILIAR THEIR
FACES... EVEN AFTER ALL
THESE YEARS...

Dear Classmate:
You are hereby
invited to attend
the Tenth Annual
Reunion of our class,
at the Waldorf Towers...
Dress Formal...

Wm. Edward R. Stead
39 Main St.
City

STRANGER STILL THAT THEY
HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ME...

BILL BRANDE... HE ONLY STOOD OUT BECAUSE OF HIS SISTER, MARION! YES, THEY ALL LOVED HER... I OUGHT TO KNOW!



ROGER RANDOLPH -- "THE RAJ"! "ASK STEADY ED," EH? ASK ME? HE LOVED HER, TOO -- CURSE HIS BLASTED BLACK SOUL!



I SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM FOR WHAT HE DID TO ME!!



I WOULD HAVE KILLED RAJ BUT FOR YOU, DENNY! ... IN THIS BOOK WE WERE SIDE BY SIDE, AND SO WE WERE IN SCHOOL -- UNTIL THAT DAY---



"WHEN WE BEGAN TAKING OUR FINAL EXAMINATIONS.."



"ROGER KNEW I HATED HIM FOR LYING TO MARION ABOUT ME... TURNING HER AGAINST ME, BUT STILL HE -----"

PSST! ED! WHAT'S THE ANSWER TO THE FIRST QUESTION?



CRIBBING'S NOT HONORABLE! I WON'T TELL YOU!

I KNOW, I KNOW! BUT IF YOU DON'T, I'LL FLUNK OUT! I WON'T GRADUATE! ED! HAVE A HEART! PLEASE, ED ---



"WHAT MADE ME GIVE IN TO HIM, I'LL NEVER KNOW! BUT I SCRIBBLED MY ANSWER AND SLIPPED IT TO HIM..."

HERE!

I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS ED-- NEVER!

"I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU, ED, I... BUT LATER, AFTER THE EXAM, IN THE SUGAR BOWL ---"

BUT, MARION, YOU PROMISE TO GO TO THE PROM WITH ME--

WITH YOU? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH... NOT AFTER WHAT RAJ'S TOLD ME ABOUT YOU!

"AND THEN IT HAPPENED! PROFESSOR MANLEY SENT FOR RAJ AND ME ---"

BOTH OF THESE PAPERS SHOW THE SAME ERRORS! OBVIOUSLY, ONE OF YOU COPIED! SPEAK UP-- THIS IS SERIOUS!

I HATE TO SAY THIS, PROFESSOR -- BUT ED COPIED FROM ME! I WARNED HIM, BUT---

WHY, YOU DIRTY--

MR. STEAD! REPORT TO THE DEAN'S OFFICE-- AT ONCE!

"IT DIDN'T TAKE THE DEAN LONG TO MAKE UP HIS MIND... IN FACT, AS I REMEMBER, IT TOOK HIM ONLY FIVE MINUTES..."

MR. STEAD, YOU WILL PACK YOUR THINGS AND BE OFF THE COLLEGE GROUNDS WITHIN THE HOUR!

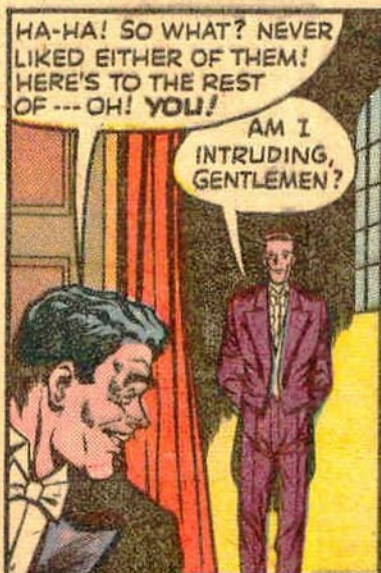
"MY MIND WAS A BLANK -- I WALKED TOWARD THE DORM TO PACK MY THINGS, WHEN ---"

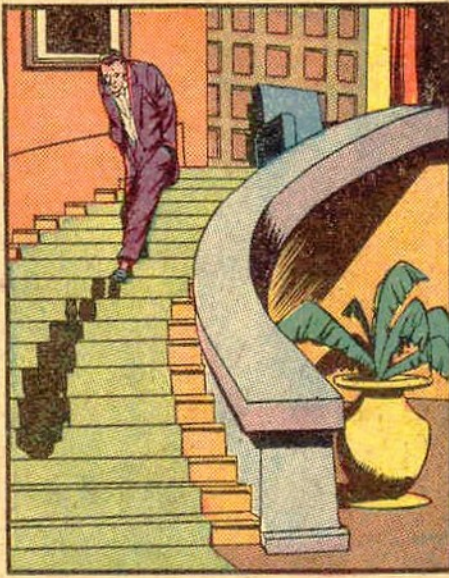
THE EXAM CRIBBER! HA-HA-HA!

I DON'T KNOW HOW I EVER COULD HAVE LIKED HIM!



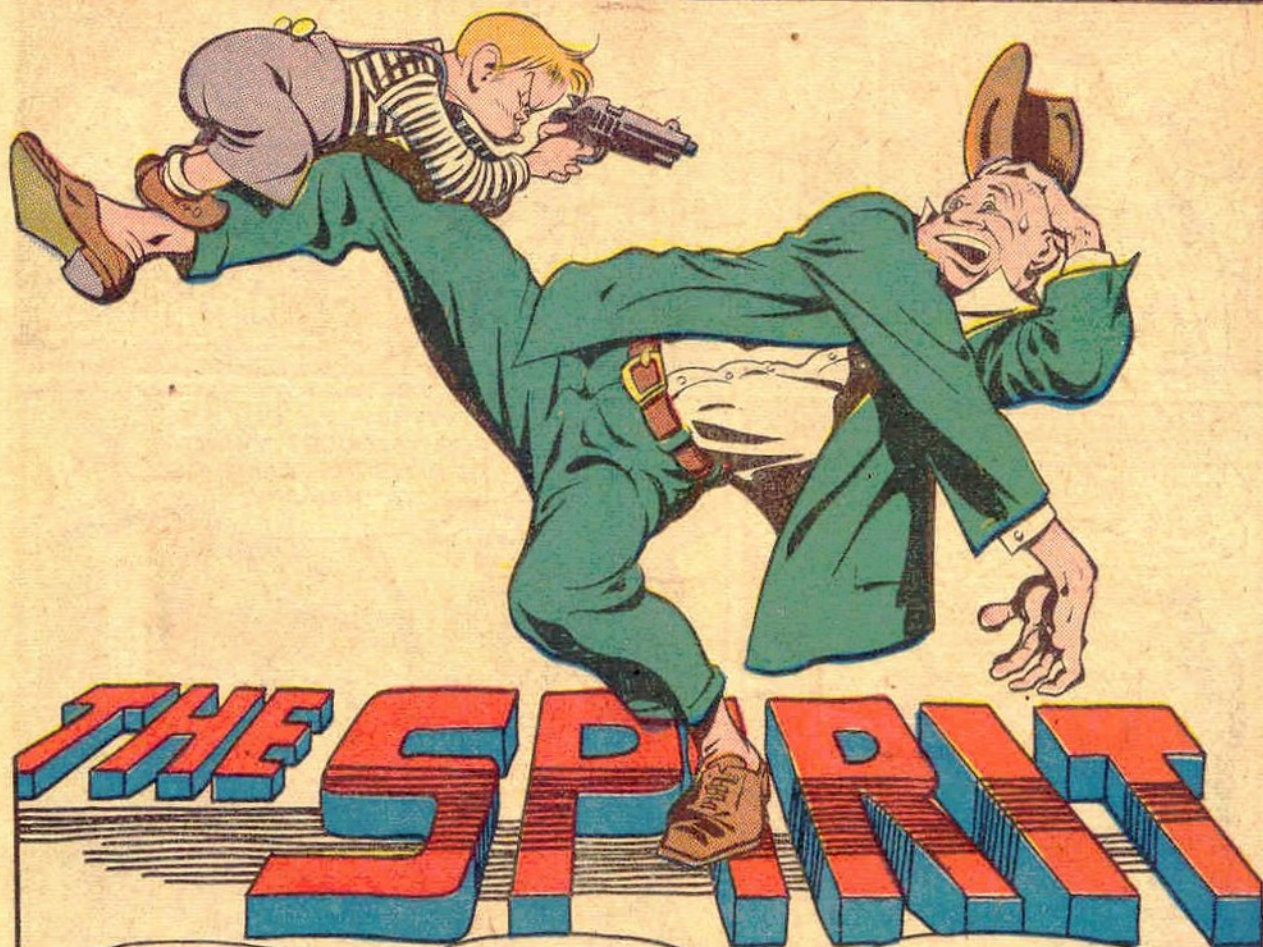
AND SO WE TURN TO THE WALDORP TOWERS, THAT NIGHT







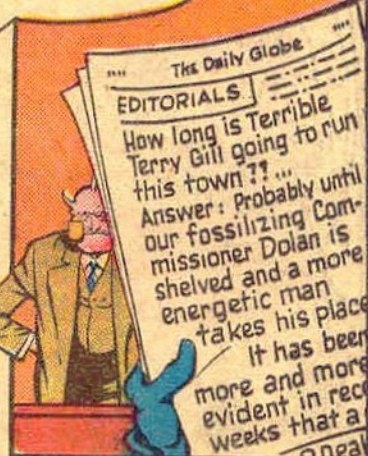


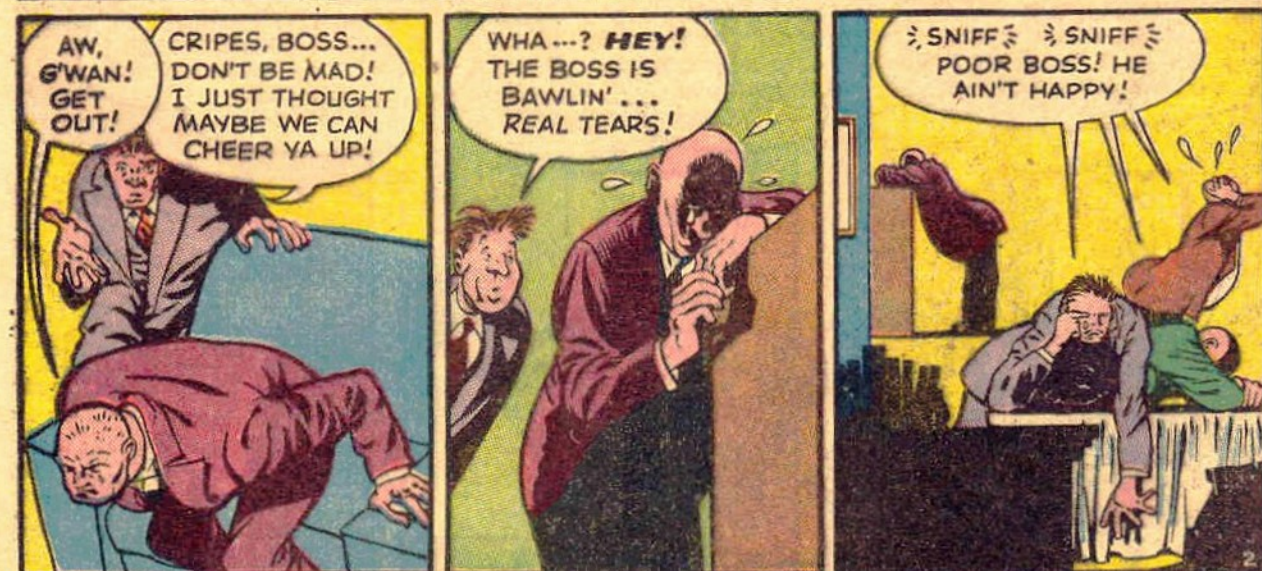


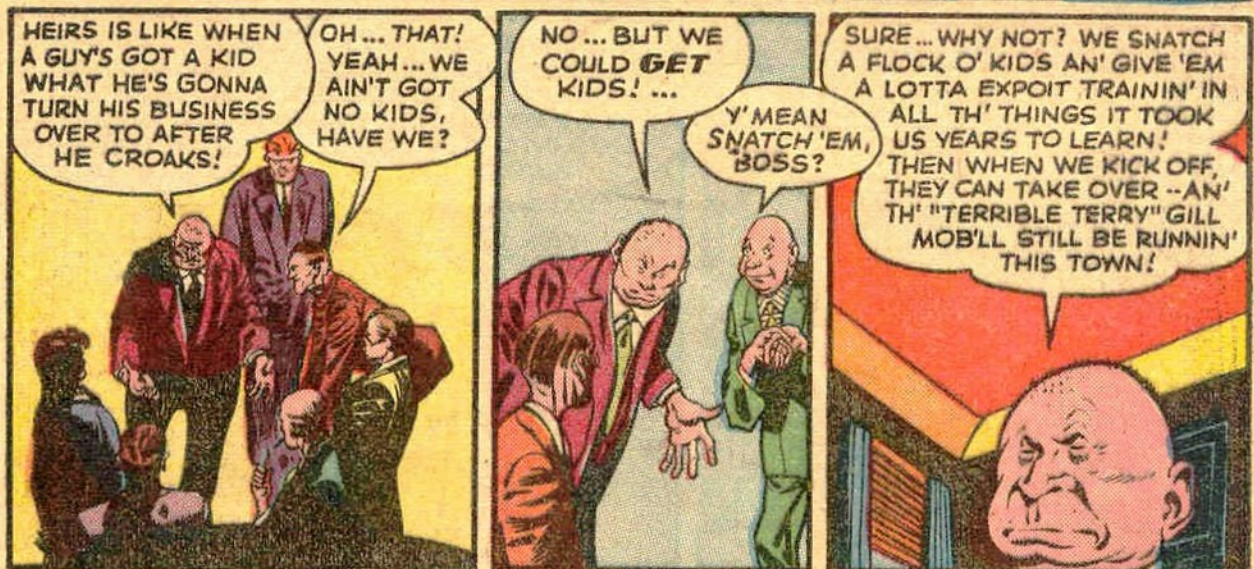
WHAT'S THE
MATTER, DOLAN? YOU
LOOK AS IF YOUR MOTHER-
IN-LAW JUST NOW HIT
TOWN!

HUH! ... AT A TIME
LIKE THIS YOU GOTTA
CRACK MOTHER-
IN-LAW
JOKES!

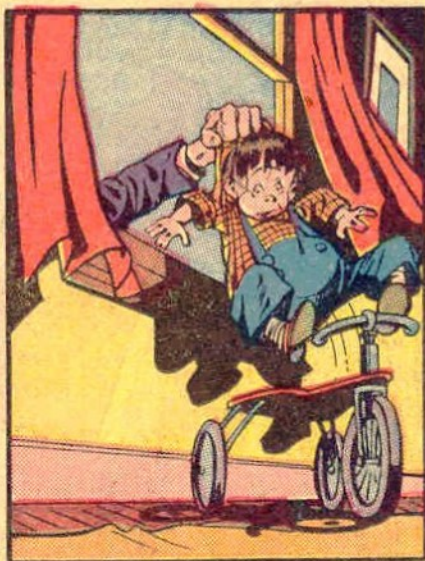
I GET IT! WHICH
OF YOUR DETESTABLE
QUALITIES IS ANNOYING
THE PRESS
THIS TIME?...



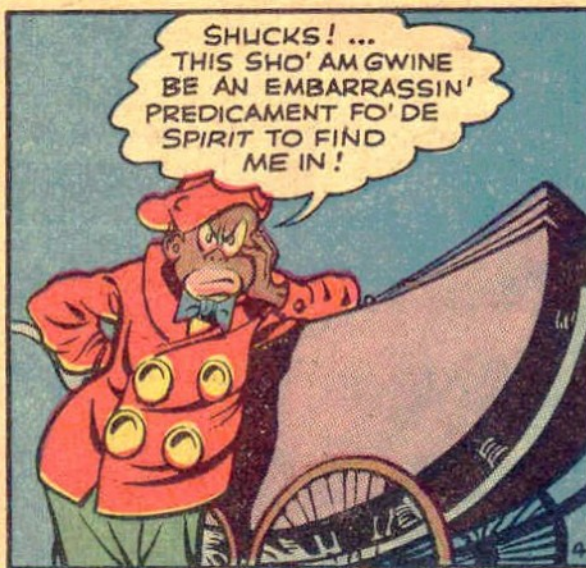


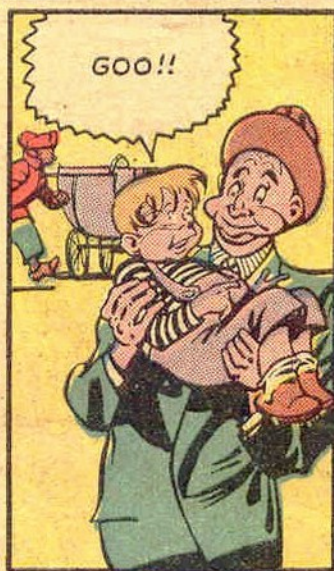
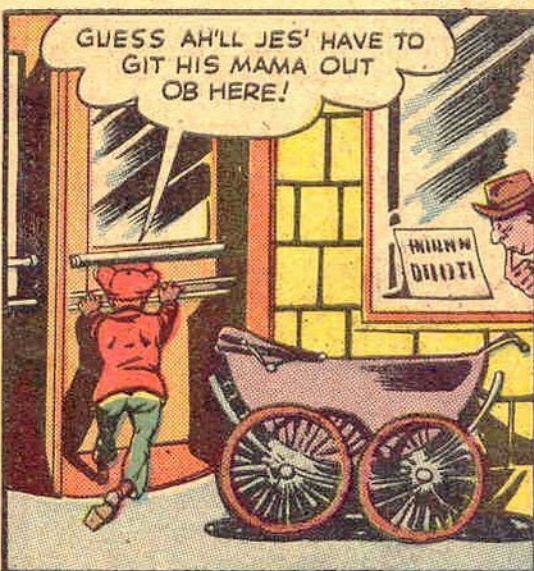


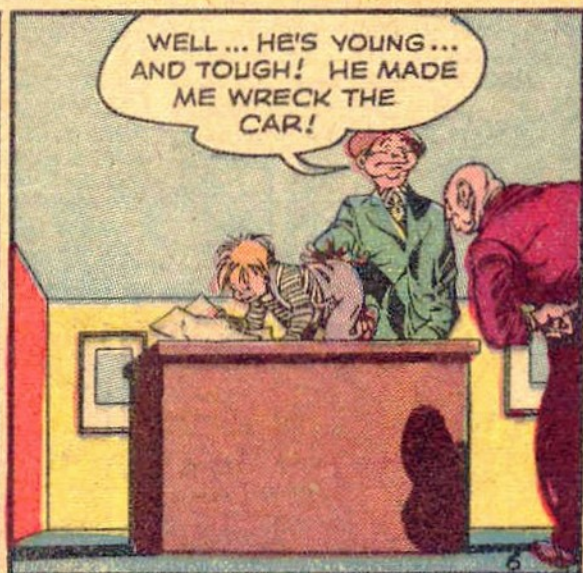
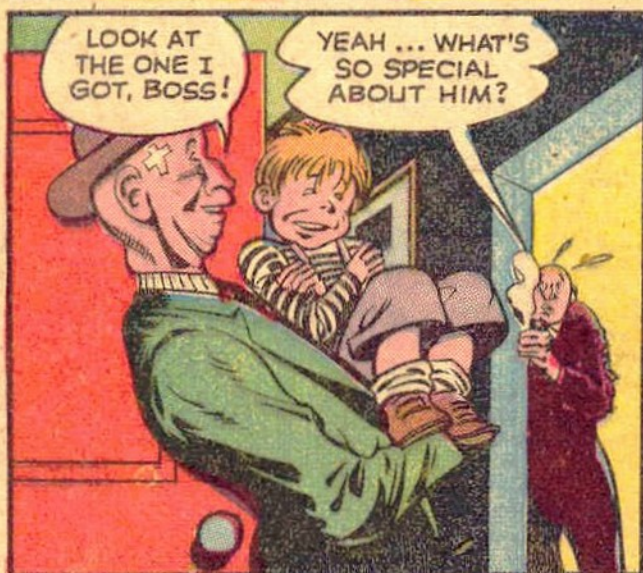
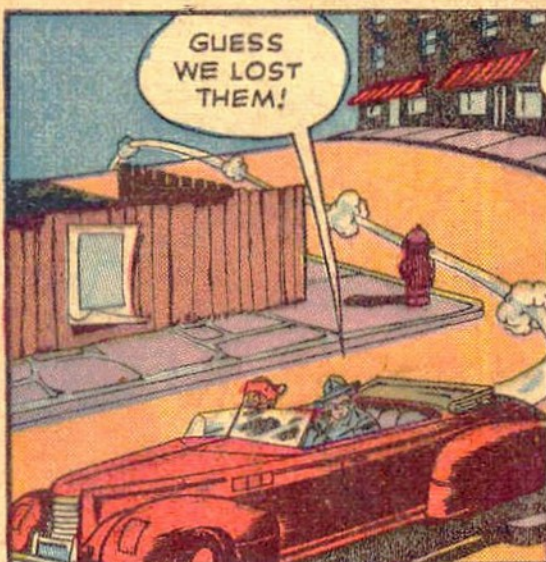
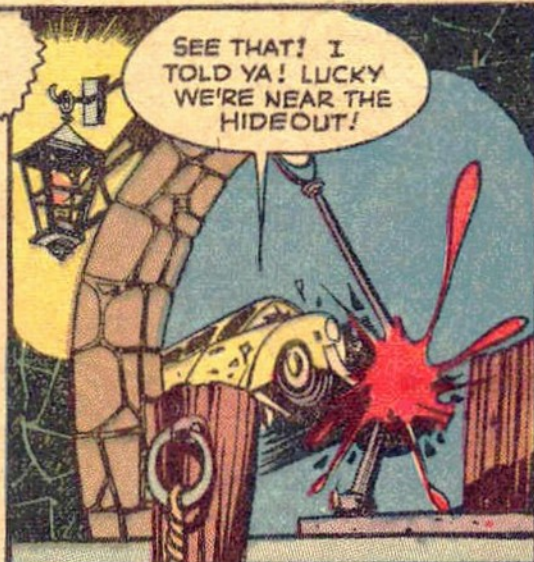
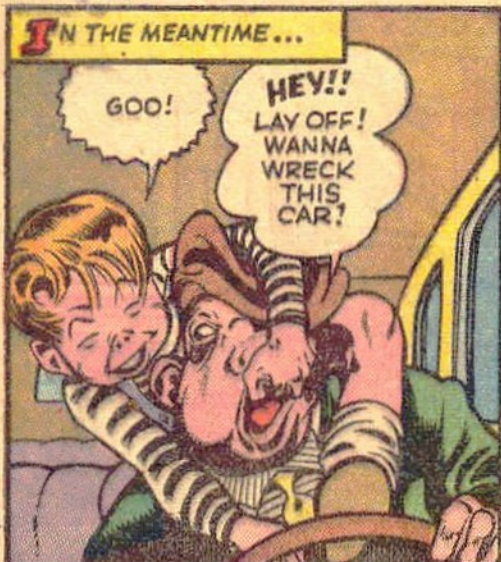
A KIDNAPPING EPIDEMIC HITS TOWN! ...



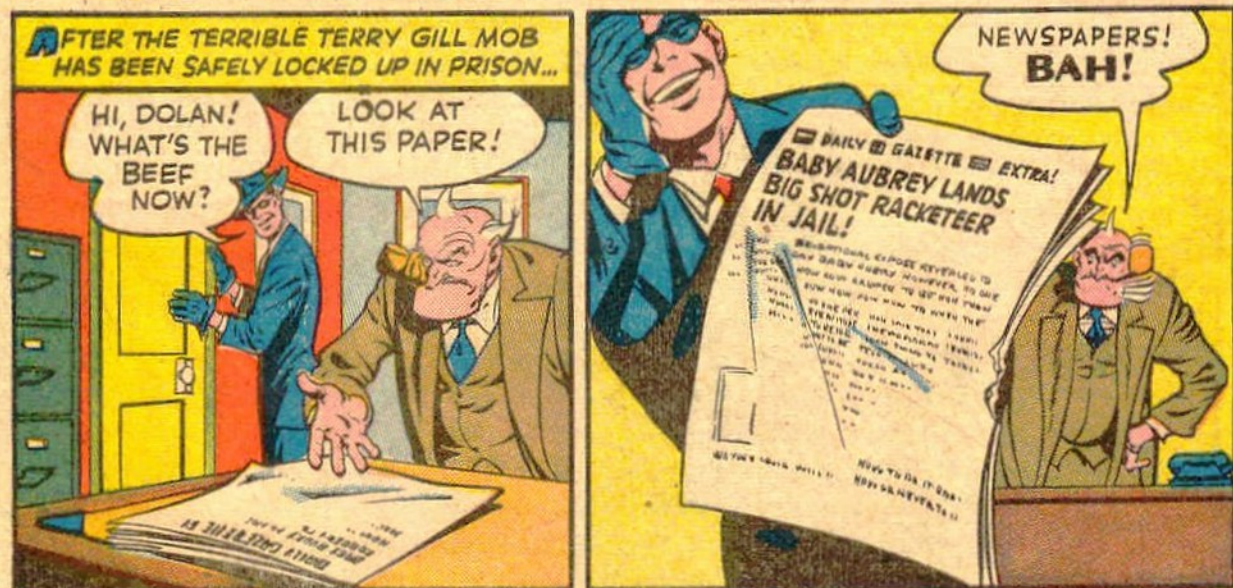
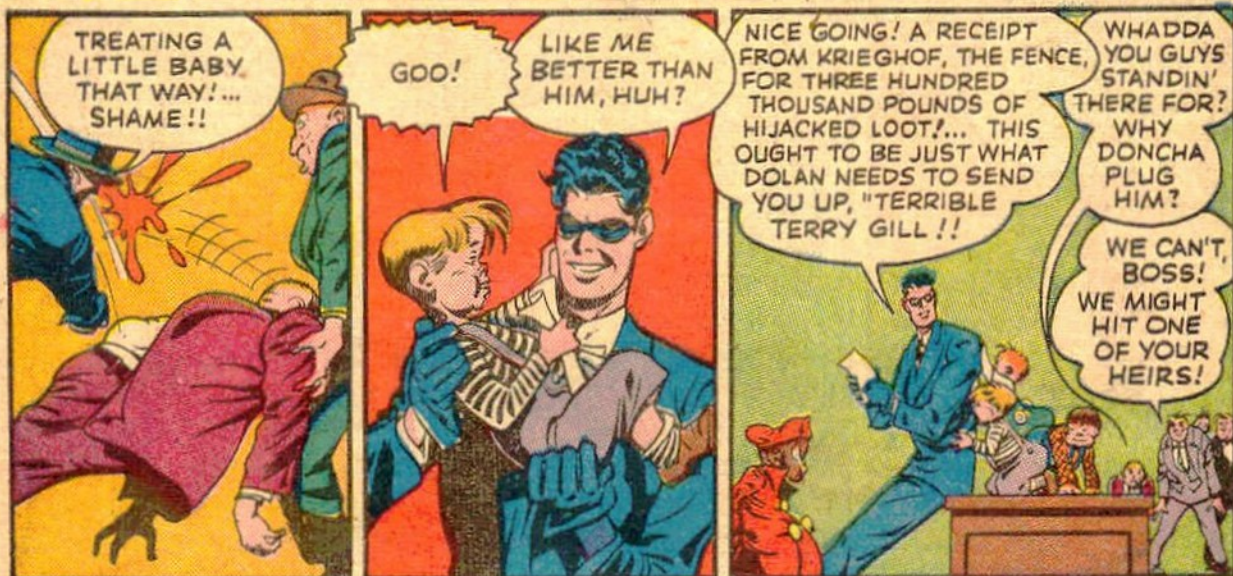
IN THE SHOPPING DISTRICT...

















YOU'RE WELCOME, STRANGER!

MATILDY! BOIL SOME TEA FOR THE GENTLEMEN!

SURE IS A WET NIGHT!

MEBBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE ORDERED SO MUCH RAIN! BUT I NEEDED IT FOR THE CROPS!

DID YOU SAY YOU ORDERED THE RAIN?



AH! HERE'S THE YOUNG MAN WHO SUPPLIES ME WITH THE RIGHT KINDS OF WEATHER!

HOWDY!

GLAD TO MEET YOU! MY NAME'S PAUL COLLINS!

JUST HOW DO YOU SUPPLY THE WEATHER? -- IN BOTTLES?



SURE HE CAN'T! ... I RECKON YOU FOLKS CAN STAY IN THE BARN FER TONIGHT! IT'S WARM AND DRY OUT THERE!

OF ALL THE CRAZY SET-UPS! HE ORDERS THE WEATHER! BAH!

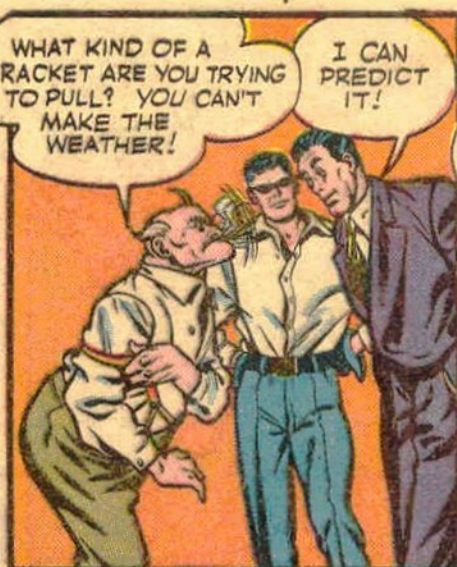
AH SHO' WISH HE'D ORDUH ME SOME NICE, HOT SUNSHINE!







OH! ... IT'S THE WEATHER-MAKER!



WHAT KIND OF A RACKET ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL? YOU CAN'T MAKE THE WEATHER!

I CAN PREDICT IT!



ALL I NEED IS THIS YEAR'S WEATHER ALMANAC! I STUDIED METEORCLOGY!

SO THAT'S IT!



I WAS ACTING IN A ROAD SHOW ... GOT STRANDED NEAR HERE! THE FARMER TOOK ME IN ... AND, EVER SINCE, I'VE BEEN PRETENDING TO MAKE THE WEATHER FOR HIM, IN RETURN FOR MEALS AND LODGING! IT'S EASIER THAN ACTING!



YOU WON'T GIVE ME AWAY, WILL YOU?

CHEAP FAKER! COME ON, SPIRIT!



CAN YOU IMAGINE THE NERVE OF THAT GUY?

I'M MORE INTERESTED IN TRIGGER SYKES! WE'LL FIX THE CAR AND GET ON HIS TRAIL!



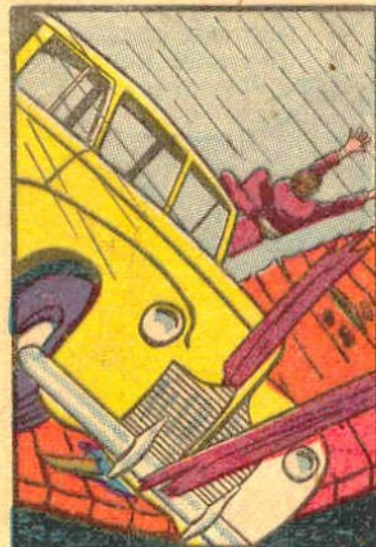
LOOK!

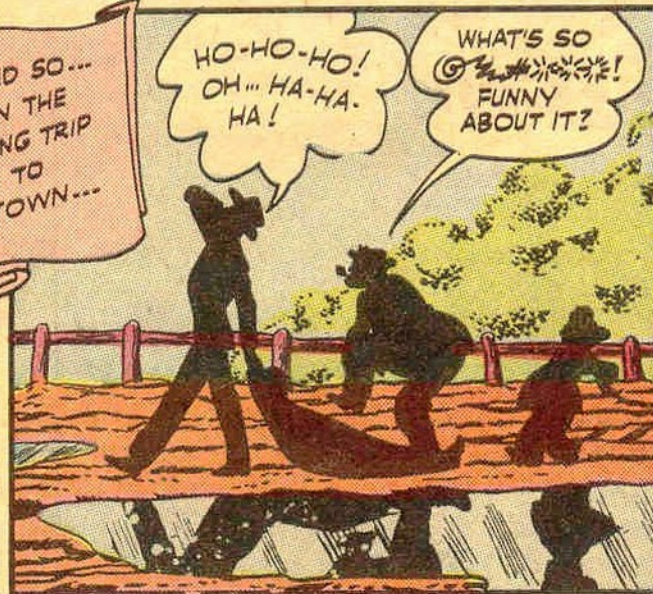
SOMEBODY'S STEALING OUR CAR!



HA-HA! I FOOLED THE SPIRIT, THIS TIME!







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